IN THE CLAIMS:

In line 1, delete ~~Claims~~ and insert:

C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

Please add new claim 13 and amend claims 1-12 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ In a method for friction welding, ~~whereby~~ in which one of the parts to be joined is oscillated by means of an electromagnetic oscillator, ~~characterised in that~~ the improvement comprising the step of electrically braking the oscillator ~~is electrically braked~~ after the controlled stimulation of oscillations and a pre-determinable oscillation period.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the stimulation of oscillations and the braking action are effected by alternately ~~energising~~ energizing two electromagnets with opposing actions, ~~that~~ wherein in dependence on the

respective direction of movement of the oscillator, upon the stimulation of ~~the~~ oscillations an electromagnet that supports the movement is energized, and upon braking, an electromagnet that inhibits the respective movement is ~~energised~~ energized, and ~~that~~ wherein during the braking action the ~~energisation~~ energization process is halted once a predetermined oscillation amplitude has been reached.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the stimulation of oscillations and the braking action in each case take less than 80 ms.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Arrangement~~ In an arrangement for friction welding~~, in which an oscillator is provided by means of which one of the~~ having a oscillator for oscillating parts to be joined ~~is oscillated and~~ which is powered by electromagnets with opposing actions, ~~characterised in that~~ the improvement wherein an output of a displacement sensor ~~(11)~~ which registers the respective position of the oscillator ~~(4, 5, 6)~~ is joined to an input of a controller ~~(12) which~~ that is linked on the output side

to inputs of a power-circuit output stage ~~(13)~~ for ~~energisation~~ energization of the electromagnets ~~(2, 3)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the controller ~~(12)~~ activates the power-circuit output stage ~~(13)~~ in such a manner that, in dependence upon the respective direction of movement of the oscillator, ~~(4, 5, 6)~~ an electromagnet ~~(2, 3)~~ supporting the movement is ~~energised~~ energized.

6. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~either of claims 4 or 5, characterised in that~~ claim 4, wherein an electromagnet ~~(2, 3)~~ inhibiting the respective movement is ~~energised fpr~~ energized for braking, and ~~that~~ wherein during the braking operation the ~~energisation~~ energization is halted once a predetermined oscillation amplitude has been reached.

7. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 6, characterised in that~~ claim 4, wherein the power-circuit output stage ~~(13)~~ is constituted from a first bridge arm comprising two solid-state switching devices (T3,

T6) connected in series, with parallel-connected ~~free-wheeling~~ free-running diodes (D3, D6), and two further bridge arms which respectively comprise a series-parallel connection for a solid-state switching device (T1, T2) and a diode (D4, D5)~~, that the~~; wherein coils of the electromagnets ~~(2, 3)~~ are connected on the one hand between the junction point of the solid-state switching devices (T3, T6) of the first bridge arm and, on the other hand, a respective junction point of the other bridge arms~~, that~~; and wherein the solid-state switching devices (T3, T6) of the first bridge arm are activated at the oscillation frequency and the solid-state switching devices (T1, T2) of the further bridge arms are activated in a pulse-width-modulated or tolerance-band-regulated manner, ~~and~~ such that higher frequencies than the oscillation frequency ~~may~~ can result, depending on the control state.

8. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the diodes (D4, D5) of solid-state switching devices (T4, T5) are constituted ~~with the~~ by ~~free-wheeling~~ free-running diodes (D4, D5) connected in parallel.

9. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~energisation~~ energization of the electromagnets ~~(2, 3)~~ is alternated by way of the other bridge arms from one operating cycle to the next.

10. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 9, characterised in that~~ claim 4, wherein means for constituting a trigger signal to ~~energise~~ energize the respective electromagnet ~~(2, 3)~~ are configured in such a way that the trigger signal occurs a predeterminable fraction, preferably one quarter, of the length of an oscillation after an oscillation's passage through zero.

11. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 10, characterised in that~~ claim 4, wherein the controller ~~(12)~~ incorporates an integral-action component which is pre-set at a substantial level right at the start.

12. (Currently Amended) Arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 11, characterised in that~~ claim 4, wherein the oscillator ~~(4, 5, 6)~~, inclusive of its resilient mounting ~~(5)~~ and the workpiece holder ~~(6)~~, the displacement sensor

~~(11)~~, the controller ~~(12)~~, the power-circuit output stage ~~(13)~~ and the electromagnets ~~(2, 3)~~, form an oscillating circuit whose resonant frequency is substantially determined by the natural frequency of the oscillator ~~(4, 5, 6)~~, inclusive of the latter's resilient mounting ~~(5)~~ and the workpiece holder ~~(6)~~.

13. (New) Arrangement according to claim 10, wherein said fraction is one quarter.